

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises the following steps:

- providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels of the CIC family;
- subjecting the test cell to the action of the channel compound; and
- measuring the ability of the compound to block the selected chloride channels.
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10. (currently amended) The method according Claim 9, wherein the test cell comprises one or more chloride channels selected from the group consisting of CIC-3, CIC-6 and CIC-7 ~~and functional analogues thereof having substantially equivalent activity to the native forms.~~

11. (currently amended) The method according to any one of Claims 9 or 10, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion ~~invaton~~, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.

12. (canceled) A drug development method, which comprises the identification of a compound by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11.

13. (canceled) The use of a compound identified as a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a product thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject.

14. (canceled) A method for the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound identified as a blocker or a chloride channel of the ClC family by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof.

15. (canceled) The use of a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject.

16. (canceled) The use of Claim 15, wherein the said blocker is a blocker of one or more channels ClC-3, ClC-6 and ClC-7 but does not block at least one of ClC-1, ClC-2, ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-Ka and ClC-Kb.

17. (canceled) A method for the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof.

18. (new) A method for screening chemical compounds for activity in the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability of the compounds to block one or more channels of the ClC family.

19. (new) A method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block one or more of the chloride channels ClC-3, ClC-6 and ClC-7.

20. (new) A method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7.

21. (new) A method as claimed in claim 20, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels ClC-1, ClC-2, ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-Ka and ClC-Kb.

22. (new) A method as claimed in claim 20, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel ClC-7.

23. (new) A method as claimed in claim 18, which method comprises the following steps:

- providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels of the ClC family;
- subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and
- measuring the ability of the compound to block the one or more chloride channels.

24. (new) A method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the test cell comprises one or more chloride channels selected from the group consisting of ClC-3, ClC-6 and ClC-7.

25. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, which screens a chemical compound for activity in blocking specifically the chloride channel ClC-7 in which the test cell comprises the chloride channel ClC-7.

26. (new) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said test cell comprises the chloride channel ClC-7.

27. (new) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.